

President's Run

Q. [*Inaudible*—before you run?

The President. When it gets to be 100. We ran yesterday around noon, which was good. And I'm probably not going to run today.

Q. Does the heat slow you down?

The President. A little bit, but the wind—there's wind on the prairie, and we go down the canyons. It's pretty cool down there.

Upcoming Travel

Q. Mr. President, any plans to go back to Austin anytime soon?

The President. No, not this trip. Laura is going down, I think, to see some friends, but I'm not going. I'm going to Denver and Albuquerque next week, be going to Milwaukee, another city that we haven't announced yet after Milwaukee. [*Laughter*] Hint. [*Laughter*] And then giving a speech in San Antonio.

President's Vacation

Q. Tell us why you like the heat down here.

The President. I like the State. I love Texas; it's my home. And as I explained to people yesterday, this is where we're going to live. And just because my office is in Washington, doesn't mean my home is not still in Texas. I love the people. I love the culture. I told the people in Midland when I left, I said, "We may have changed address, but my heart will still be in Texas." And you probably realize that we haven't spent much time in our new home, and there's kind of a settling-in period. And this is part of the adjustment to our new home, and the house is adjusting to us. And our builder is adjusting to our phone calls to come over and fix—parts of the new home. [*Laughter*]

Look, I'm sure it's going to be 95 in DC when we get back there in September, late August. I don't make my decisions based upon the temperature; I make my decisions based upon where I can get my job done and the fact that I'd like to be back in Texas. And I'm never going to leave Texas. This is where I like to go. Some people like to go to the East Coast; some people like to go to the West Coast; I like to come to Texas. It's where I rest. It's where I do my work.

It's where I see my friends. And that's just me, and people are going to have to adjust to it.

President's Construction Injury

Q. Sir, did you hit your finger while you were hammering?

The President. I may have hit it, or somebody may have hit it. I'm not telling. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've got good hand-eye coordination.

The President. You noticed—did you see that? Seven pounds per nail.

Q. Is that right?

The President. Yes.

Want a picture? All right, let's do it. We've got to get a family picture.

So how long have you been in this house, for 12 years? It's a beautiful home. You've got a new neighbor, Gladys. I volunteered Bubba to come and mow the lawn. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:55 a.m. in front of the Gowan family home. In his remarks, the President referred to Habitat for Humanity homeowners Otis Gowan III, and his wife, Thresa, and their neighbors Gladys Evans and her son, Edwin "Bubba," whose home the President helped build. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters at the Coffee Station Restaurant in Crawford, Texas

August 8, 2001

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. I've got some of the local farmers here; I'm going to explain to them the 5.5 supplemental I'm signing here pretty soon. Emergency supplemental for—

President's Vacation

Q. How does it feel to be here with the people of Crawford?

The President. It's great to be here with the people of Crawford.

Q. What did you order, sir?

The President. I ordered a cheeseburger and some onion rings. And I'm not sharing any with you. [*Laughter*]

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], you order something up. You're getting paid too much money anyway.

Q. I'll have a bite of your cheeseburger. How's that?

Q. Sir, did the sign make you decide to come inside?

The President. What did it say?

Q. Did the sign outside make you decide to stop?

The President. I didn't see it. What did it say?

Q. It said, "George and Laura, come by."

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. No. What made me decide to stop was the wonderful people who own the place—and the cheeseburger. [Laughter]

One of the things that I'm talking about here is how hard it is for a lot of these farmers to make a living. And one of the things about the farm program that we've got to make sure happens is that when there's emergency aid, like the bill I'm going to sign here next week, it gets to the farmers who are farming.

A lot of times that money goes to people who aren't farmers. We want to make sure it goes to help the farmers who are actually farming the land. There's a lot of medium-sized farmers that need help, and one of the things that we're going to make sure of as we restructure the farm program next year is that the money goes to the people it's meant to help.

I'm also going to tell them that part of the supplemental—some folks tried to increase the supplemental, but that money wasn't going to the farmers. The extra money they tried to put on that would have busted the budget wasn't going to farmers; it was going to other matters. And what I'm interested in is, giving payments to the people that, like the corn farmers here at the table, that are working hard to make a living.

Having said that, now we can eat. [Laughter]

President's Vacation

Q. [Inaudible]—are you going running this afternoon?

The President. I'm not going to run today, but I'll get you out there one of these days. I'm not going to run today.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:40 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Maureen Reagan

August 8, 2001

Laura and I are deeply saddened to learn of Maureen Reagan's death. Maureen was a devoted, caring daughter and mother. She fought tirelessly to increase funding for Alzheimer's research and raise public awareness of the disease. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen's husband, Dennis, their daughter, Rita, and the entire family.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Jerusalem

August 9, 2001

I deplore and strongly condemn the terrorist bombing in downtown Jerusalem today. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the American people are with the victims of this terrible tragedy and their families.

Nothing is gained through cowardly acts such as this. The deliberate murder of innocent civilians is abhorrent to all, a threat to peace, and inconsistent with the parties' signed agreements to put aside violence. Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat must condemn this horrific terrorist attack, act now to arrest and bring to justice those responsible, and take immediate, sustained action to prevent future terrorist attacks.

I urge the parties to return immediately to the cease-fire commitments they have previously made and to renew effective security cooperation so this kind of terrorism will not happen again. The United States stands ready to assist the parties in this effort, as it has in the past, but the effort must begin with the parties acting to fulfill their obligations under the Tenet work plan.

The United States remains committed to implementation in all its elements of the Mitchell Committee Report, which provides